

Water Supply and Growth in the Clark Fork River Basin

A Conference Cosponsored by:

Clark Fork River Basin Task Force

Montana Association of Counties

Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

Montana Department of Environmental Quality

University of Montana Department of Geography

Purpose

To explore the basic facts and issues regarding the water supply and growth in the Clark Fork River Basin and tools for managing both.

Dates

March 10 and 11, 2008

Location

University Center Theater, University of Montana, Missoula, Montana

Target Audience

Tribal and local government officials (county commissioners, mayors, and tribal and city council members) and staff (city managers, city/county/tribal planners, etc.), state and tribal water management and planners, conservation districts, Realtors, consultants, water users (irrigation districts, hydropower operators, water utilities, etc.), fish and wildlife managers, conservation/environmental organizations, academics (faculty and students), and interested public.

Agenda

Day 1 - Setting the Stage

11:00 am Registration

1:00 pm Welcome and Introduction - Gerald Mueller, Clark Fork Task Force Facilitator

1:15 pm Water law primer - Holly Franz, ESQ, Clark Fork Task Force Member

- State ownership and allocation of water
- First-in-time, first-in-use
- Tribal water rights

1:30 pm Basin water supply facts - Marc Spratt, Clark Fork Task Force Member & RLK Hydro)

- Clark Fork River basin water balance -
 - Historic (surface water)
 - Recent (ground water)
 - Basin water storage (present uses and constraints)
 - Water short and water rich areas of the basin

2:00 pm Recent legal rulings - Anne Yates, ESQ, Deputy Legal Counsel for Water, Montana

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

- Thompson River Cogeneration water
- TU vs. DNRC

2:20 pm Break

2:35 pm Basin population and economic growth

- Demographics - Susan Ockert, Montana Department of Commerce Census and Economic Information Center
- Economy - Dick King, President/CEO, Missoula Area Economic Development Corporation

3:05 pm Basin Water use projection - Tim Bryggman, DNRC Water Management Bureau Economist

3:25 pm Discussion

- Conference participant questions and comments

4:00 pm Social and No-host bar

Day 2 - Growth and Water Supply Planning and Regulation

8:00 am Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:30 am Welcome and Introduction - Gerald Mueller

8:35 am Who Makes What Decision in Planning for Growth - David Shively, Associate Professor of Geography, University of Montana, Moderator

- County growth policies, zoning, subdivision regulations, and critical area ordinances - Myra Schultz, ESQ
 - What authority do they provide counties to regulate water supply?
- State subdivision regulations - Steve Kilbreath, Section Supervisor, Subdivision Review Program, Montana Department of Environmental Quality
 - How do they relate to water supply?
- Ideas for improving growth planning and management - Michael Kakuk, ESQ and Tim Davis, Project Manager, Montana Smart Growth Coalition
- Implications of HB 831 - Michael Nicklin, Ph.D., P.E., Nicklin Earth & Water
- Participant questions and comments

10:00 am Break

10:15 am Managing the Water Supply

- DNRC water right regulation - Bill Schultz, DNRC Regional Water Resources Manager
 - Water availability analysis (physical and legal)
 - Coordinated surface and ground water regulation
 - Ground water permit exemptions

- Participant questions and comments
- 10:45 am Water Management Issues - Arvid Hiller, Vice President and General Manager, Mountain Water Company, Moderator
- Individual or community water and septic systems, what is in the public interest?
 - Jim Carlson, Director of Environmental Health, Missoula County Environmental Health Department and Steve Kilbreath, DEQ
 - Exempt Wells - Rep. Jill Cohenour
 - Should ground water wells be exempt from water right permits?
 - Which ones should be exempt?
 - Well Driller Perspective on Ground Water Development - Bill Gardner (Invited)
 - Aquifer Storage and Recovery - Randy Overton, RLK Hydro
 - What is it?
 - Who regulates it?
 - How does it impact on Public water supplies
 - Participant questions and comments
- Noon Lunch - Senator Jim Elliott, Chairman of the Water Policy Interim Committee.
- 1:00 pm Potential Sources of Water for Growth
- New Sources - Mike McLane, Water resources Specialist, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks
 - Ground water
 - Existing water rights
 - Hungry Horse contracts
 - Constraints on Hungry Horse operation - Bruce Measure, ESQ, Montana Member of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council (Invited)
 - State-Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal compact - Tribal representative (invited)
 - Participant questions and comments
- 2:00 pm Break
- 2:15 pm Improved Local, State, and Tribal Water Supply and Growth Planning - Participants will break into facilitated groups to discuss needs and ideas for improving planning and coordination
- 3:00 pm Improved Local, State, and Tribal Water Supply and Growth Planning - Full group discussion
- 4:30 pm Wrap Up - Matt Clifford, ESQ
- 5:00 pm Adjourn